

The Brethren Evangelist,

ASHLAND, OHIO.

A. D. GNAGEY, : : Editor.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 1895.

STATISTICS.

One of the neglected things in the Brethren church is that of gathering much needed statistics. We do not know enough about ourselves, who we are, where we are, what we are and how many we are. Brother J. A. Miller, secretary of the National Conference, is perfecting arrangements for this important work. In this we should have the co-operation of every member in the church, especially the ministers. You can be of great help to him in the prosecution of this work, and it is very desirable that it should be done. We have very poor records of our own church. The list of ministers in the Annual is incomplete. There is no record of the various congregations in the brotherhood, and we have not even an approximate idea of our numbers. This is not as it should be, and not as it *need* be. There is a way by which very accurate statistical reports can be gathered, but only by the help of our ministers and others. Notice carefully what will be said in the paper along this line, between this and next National Conference, and when you see an opportunity to help in the work, do not neglect it. Brother Miller expects to send out blank reports, and we kindly ask every minister to fill out the same to the best of his knowledge and ability, and return the same to him at Ashland, Ohio.

LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS.

Below will be found the names of those who have sent in subscriptions, the first of the 400. The name of the sender only appears in this list. Every *yearly* subscription at \$1.50, under this head will be counted as *two* in making up the 400.

H. S. Jacobs, Homerville, O.,	1
Dr. Beachly, Meyersdale, Pa.,	5
J. M. Rittgers, Huntington, Ind.,	5
J. M. Tombaugh, Washington C.H., O.,	2
D. S. Lichty, Lanark, Ill.,	2
J. C. Hazen, W. Independence, O.,	3
Miscellaneous,	6

Total

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF 1895.

In this issue we publish the program for the National Conference of the Brethren church, to be held at Ashland, O. The time fixed by the Executive Committee is Sept. 3-5. The Conference, therefore, opens on Tuesday at 2 P. M., and closes on Thursday night of the same week. The work of our National Conference has always been of the most important, and will be no less so this year. With some it is a question as to the propriety of holding the National Conference annually. If the future is to be judged by the past, then the wisdom of an *annual* conference cannot be questioned. Go back to the meeting held at Warsaw in 1892. It was the first one of the kind held for five years. We were utterly at sea, not knowing how to proceed. We were strangers to one another. It required as much to organize and get ready for work as it now requires to do the work of an entire conference. We were unorganized, with no plans or system of work in operation, to which we could look for any great results. The progress of the church since the meeting of that conference has been remarkable. In literature and systematic work the growth has been beyond all expectation. This work was inaugurated by the National Conference in 1892, and carefully guarded and helped and improved by each succeeding conference since then. In reference to the coming conference, we wish to say,

1. That in order to have a successful meeting *preparation* is necessary. The work is a great one, and those who expect to be present and take part, should come *prepared*. Give the matter much thought. If here are any plans or systems of work you wish to have inaugurated at this conference, make a careful outline of it, and be prepared to present it in an intelligent way. We should have an article from the president of each District Conference; one from the president of the National K. C. society, J. O. Talley; one from the president of the S. S. C. E., Laura E. N. Grossnickle; one from the president of the National Mission Board, Dr. Roop; another from J. D. McFaden on Book and Tract Work; last but not least, one from J. Allen Miller on Ashland University. Now, brethren, we have outlined your work, and there remains nothing for you to do, but to *do it*. Come to the front, join hands and hearts, and set the whole brotherhood to *thinking* along the line of church work. Brother Knepper,

chairman of the National Conference, will please lead and others will follow. Examine carefully every topic on the program, consider it prayerfully, and when the time comes, let us meet together to do business for the Master and do it in his name, guided by the hand divine.

2. There should be a *full* representation. Not every congregation can be represented in person, but surely it is not unreasonable to ask that each congregation in the brotherhood be represented either by letter or in person. Brother Miller, National secretary, will send credentials to all ministers whose names appear in the annual, together with programs, etc. Pastors will please see that a proper use is made of them.

3. Then above all do not neglect to come in the spirit of prayer. We mean to do work for the Master, and we need his guidance and help.

HOME BIBLE STUDY.

The Bible is preeminently a book for the home. A systematic study of the Word of God in the home, sweetens domestic life, brings joy and peace and sunshine, and above all salvation, where otherwise there would be gloom, darkness, sin and ruin. The Bible, that most blessed of all books, is not read in the home as it should be. Books, papers and magazines, crowd the shelves of the library, and are read daily. But the Bible—well you say it does not interest you. Perhaps not. There are two reasons why you do not find the Bible an interesting book. You have not studied it systematically. You have read a chapter here and there, then laid it aside, picked up a novel and became intensely interested. The Bible is a spiritual book, and only the spiritually minded can appreciate and understand it. If you will read the Bible as regularly and systematically as you do some other books, it will become to you the most interesting of all reading matter. Too often the study of the Bible in the home is neglected. Too many domestic cares and duties, no time to feed on God's word. The children attend the Sabbath-school, and parents rest satisfied with the instruction there given. We know too little about the Word; we do not feed upon it as we ought. If we were to feed our bodies as we do our souls, they would soon starve. We have time to prepare meals to satisfy the body; we like "good things to eat." We spend much time and money, unnecessarily, in solving the problem,